

Influenza Virus Collection Protocol For PCR analysis

MATERIALS NEEDED

Swab (Dacron or polyester) **Do not use cotton, calcium alginate or wood shafts**
Diagnostic Specimen Mailer (cooler)
Ice packs
Viral Transport Media- VCM, M4, M5 or any suitable viral transport media
Public Health Laboratory Influenza Requisition Form
Biohazard bag

Specimen Collection :

Observe universal precautions and use proper Personal Protection Equipment.
Specimen should be collected within 3 days of onset of symptoms.
Use only swabs noted above.

Preferable Specimen: Nasal Swab

Acceptable Specimen : nasopharyngeal swab, nasal aspirate/wash

Collect swab and place in viral transport medium

Break shafts of swabs to permit closure of tube with screw cap.

Screw cap on tube securely to avoid leakage.

Label each specimen with patient's name and collection date.

Refrigerate specimen(s) until ready to ship.

Shipping:

Mail specimens using overnight delivery

Package each specimen individually in a biohazard bag with absorbent.

Complete the request form entirely and place in the biohazard bag pocket

Multiple specimens, collected same day, may be shipped in the same shipping container

Place frozen ice packs in with the specimens to maintain at 4C

Close container and seal with tape, affix label

Deliver to the nearest Courier Location (clinical laboratory) or send via Fed Ex

NOTE: Store all transport media and collected specimens at 4C (cold pak) until shipment!

**SPECIMENS MUST ARRIVE AT THE LABORATORY WITHIN 24-48 HRS
AFTER COLLECTION**

If you have any questions concerning collection or shipment, please call the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory. <http://health.wyo.gov/PHSD/lab/index.html>

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